Kumsusan Palace of the Sun

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"The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun is not merely a product of the architectural art but a grand monumental edifice dedicated to the immortality of the leaders, born of the pure loyalty and the noble sense of moral obligation of our Party, our army and our people, and a sacred place of the revolution infused with the sincere devotion of the service personnel and the people from across the country."

Kim Jong Un



In the Mt Kumsu area of Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, is the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, whom the Korean nation acclaimed for the first time in its history spanning thousands of years, are preserved in their lifetime appearances.

The palace, ranging from its every column inside to every tree and every blade of grass outside, evokes the feeling of the days when the peerlessly great men were alive, and it represents the strong yearning of all the people for them and their loyalty to them.

That the Korean people call it the sacred place of the sun is because the great leaders, who performed undying exploits for their country and nation, the history and mankind, lie in state there.

President Kim Il Sung authored the immortal Juche idea and opened a new road of the revolution in which the masses of the people shape their destiny independently and creatively as masters of their own destiny. Chairman Kim Jong Il conducted energetic ideological and theoretical activities, systematizing the Juche idea in a comprehensive way and developing the Juche idea and the Songun idea, thus making them impeccable ideas guiding the era of independence. They were both outstanding thinkers and theoreticians and geniuses of the revolution and construction, born of the century.

Kim Il Sung, founding father of socialist Korea and eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, founded the glorious Workers' Party of Korea, the DPRK and the invincible Korean People's Army, brought the two stages of social revolution to successful completion and stepped up socialist construction, thus building socialism of Korean style on this land, where exploitation and oppression have been eliminated and where people are masters of everything and everything serves them.

Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and eternal Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission, developed it into an ever-victorious and motherly party, and defended the Juche-oriented socialism reliably and enhanced its prestige amid the worldwide political upheavals, by dint of his original Songun-based revolutionary leadership.

Regarding it as their lifelong motto to believe in people as in heaven, President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il administered politics of loving people and turned the Korean society into a large family, a great flower garden based on single-hearted unity, where the leader and the people have forged blood-sealed ties like those between a father and his children.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il devoted their lifelong efforts to realizing the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation and the cause of global independence.

Out of great magnanimity and humanity they embraced all the Korean compatriots who loved their country and nation and established friendly relations with party and state leaders and numerous personages of political, social and academic circles of many countries who aspired after independence. The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun still tells of their revolutionary activities.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who devoted their all entirely to their country, revolution and people, were peerless patriots, great revolutionaries and benevolent fathers of the people, and as such they will live for ever as the sun of Juche Korea along with their undying exploits.

This is why the palace of the sun is regarded as a beacon of light for the Korean revolution, an everlasting spiritual mainstay of the Korean people and the supreme sanctuary of Juche symbolic of their victory.

The palace of the sun resplendent with the sacred history of the revolutionary activities of the peerlessly great men and overflowing with the fervent loyalty of the Workers' Party of Korea and all the people, has been laid out splendidly as befits a crystallization of the cause of immortality of the leaders.

Entering the hall of the palace, visitors can see the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

In the palace there are rooms which exhibit orders, medals and honorary title certificates the great leaders received from scores of countries and many international organizations, as well as the DPRK, for the imperishable exploits they performed for the liberation and prosperity of the country and the cause of global independence.

The carriages, cars, battery car and boat used by them and preserved in their original state tell of the tireless devotion and painstaking efforts they made to bring happiness to the people and defend it, always finding themselves among the people.

There is the Hall of Lamentation that graphically portrays the Korean and world progressive peoples lamenting the sudden death of the great leaders, shedding tears of blood at their biers.

Some 200 photos hanging in such places as the hall in front of the lifts and corridors show the revolutionary careers of the great leaders; these photos and the melodies ringing dimly there give visitors an unshakeable belief that the revolutionary careers of the great leaders still go on and they will always be with their dear country and beloved people. Indeed, they exert a strong and lingering effect on visitors.

The exterior of the palace is laid out in a neat and dignified fashion with the plaza, on whose façade portraits of the beaming images of the great leaders are hanging, as the centre.

On national holidays and other major occasions important national political events are held here in grand style.

The plaza park, with splendid fountains with sculptures on both sides of the flowerbed, benches of different shapes, pergolas and gardens, is always full of visitors to the palace.

The arboretum, Paekhwa Garden and vineyard by the moat, where water runs telling meaningful stories, present beautiful scenery.

Indeed, the palace represents the utmost sincerity, ennobling sense of moral obligation and fervent loyalty of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people, a crystallization of the cause of immortality of their leaders.

As Kim Jong Un, who is one and the same with the great leaders in ideology, leadership ability and virtues, leads the DPRK, the country of the sun, the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun will shine as the most sacred, purest and greatest accomplishment of the cause of immortality.



Supreme leader **Kim Jong Un** specifies the direction and ways for laying out the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun splendidly as befits the sacred place of the sun



Kim Jong Un guides the work of laying out the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun splendidly as befits the sacred place of the sun







On February 16, Juche 101 (2012), at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun Plaza, the joint resolution on renaming the Kumsusan Memorial Palace the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun has been made public, followed by a military ceremony of the ground, naval and air forces of the Korean People's Army



The Seventh Session of the Twelfth Supreme People's Assembly, held on April 1, Juche 102 (2013), adopts the Law on the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun as an ordinance of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK



Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in the morning







The Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, newly adopted on September 5, Juche 87 (1998) at the First Session of the Tenth Supreme People's Assembly, stipulates that the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung will be upheld as the eternal President of the DPRK.

The Fourth Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Fifth Session of the Twelfth Supreme People's Assembly, both held in April Juche 101 (2012), made public that the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il will be upheld as the eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and the eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.





Hall where the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il stand


김정은
조선로동당 중앙위원회
조선로동당 중앙군사위원회
조선민주주의인민공화국 국방위원회



Statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il

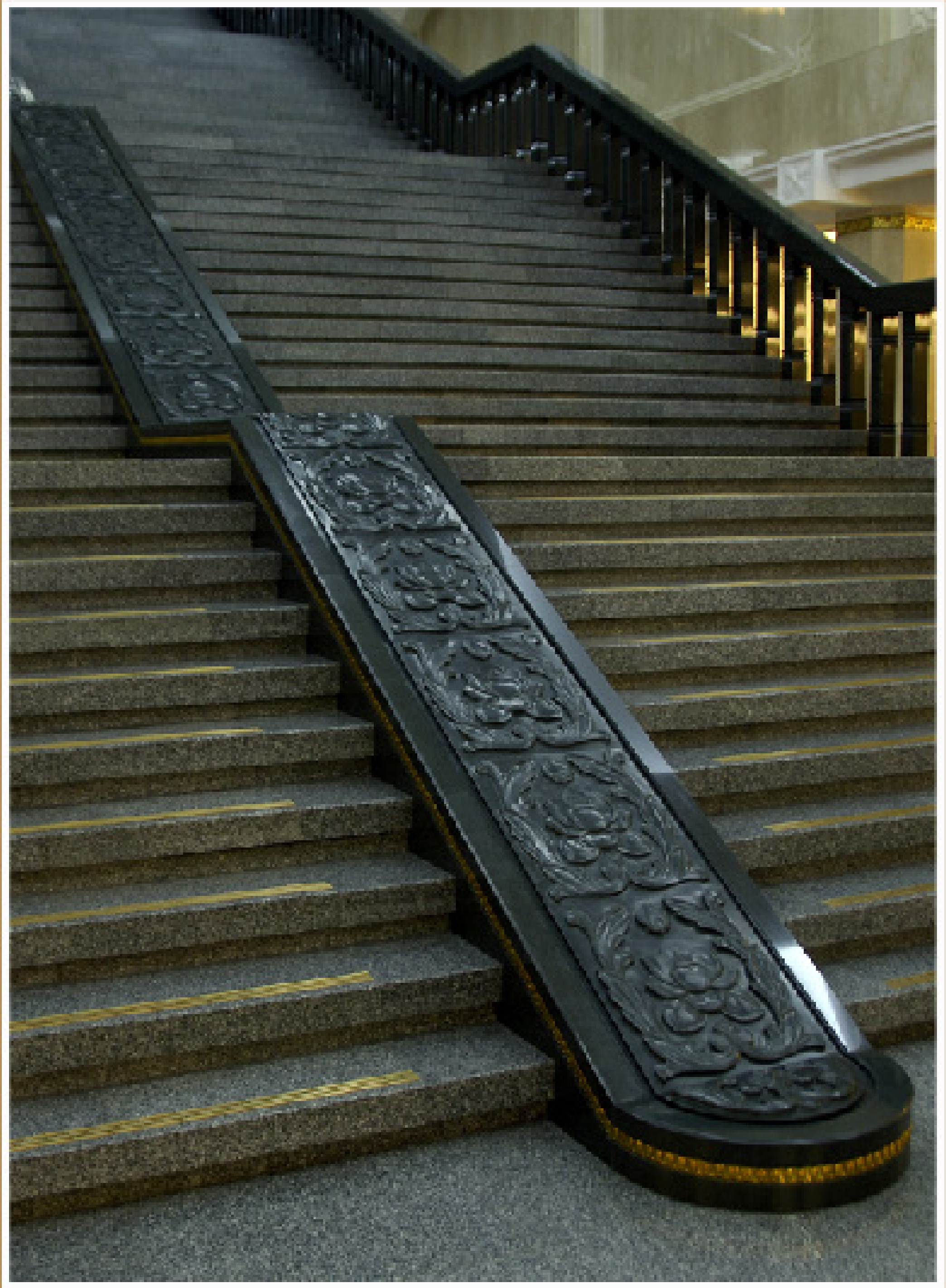


Supreme leader Kim Jong Un, together with senior Party and army officials, pays tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in front of their statues



Grand staircase on 1st floor







Central division and handrail of the grand staircase



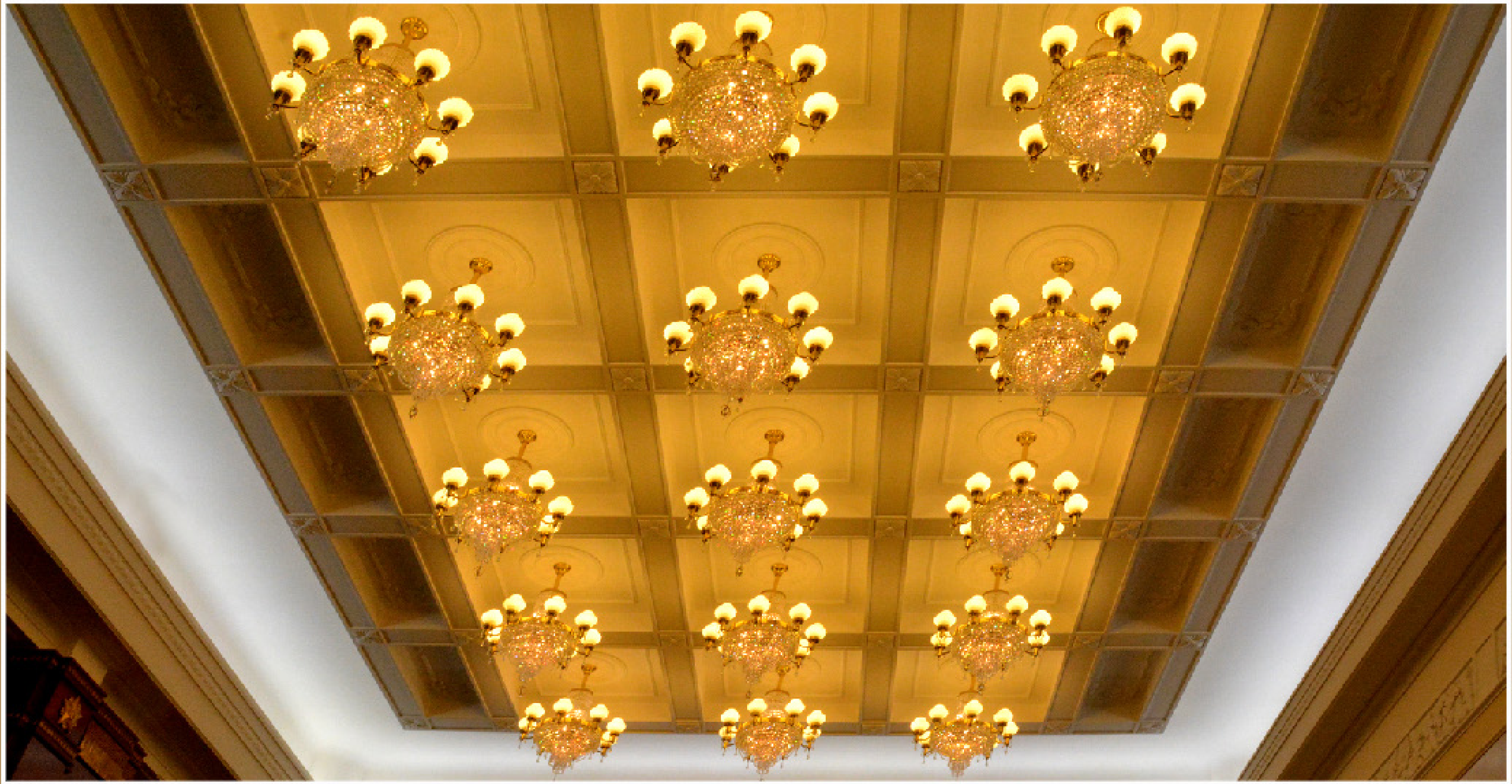


Grand staircase seen from below

Side of the grand staircase



Ornamented door handle



Chandeliers over the grand staircase



Wall lamp



Hall in front of 1st floor lifts



Hall in front of 2nd floor lifts



President Kim Il Sung presides over a consultative meeting of senior officials in the economic sector (July 6, 1994)



Hall on 2nd floor



Preserved in this room are orders, medals and honorary title certificates, 386 in total, which the great Generalissimo Kim Il Sung received from 76 countries and 13 international organizations, as well as the DPRK, for his undying exploits for the Korean revolution and the cause of global independence.

The DPRK service personnel and people conferred the title of Generalissimo of the DPRK, the title of Hero of the DPRK three times, the title of Labour Hero of the DPRK, 26 orders and 3 medals on President Kim Il Sung, for his exploits in defeating two imperialist powers in one generation and ushering in a new era for socialist Korea.

Progressive peoples and many countries of the world and international organizations awarded him 74 orders, 152 medals and 127 honorary titles in high praise of his devoted services to global independence and well-being of mankind.

Even after his death the world progressive peoples awarded him many orders, medals and honorary titles, praising him as the sun of mankind.

Room where orders, medals and honorary title certificates conferred on President Kim Il Sung are preserved



Uniform of Generalissimo of the DPRK







Part of orders, medals and honorary title certificates awarded to President Kim Il Sung



September 1945 - July 1994

Total distance: 674 000 km (1 685 000 ri)

Field guidance in the DPRK

Frequency of travel by train: 776 times

Travel distance by train: 152 000 km

Foreign tour

Foreign tour: 106 times

Foreign travel distance: 522 000 km

Travel distance by train: 216 000 km

Travel distance by air: 306 000 km

President Kim Il Sung used this carriage when he went to various parts of the country to see his people, cherishing the motto "The people are my God," as well as to other countries.

On this carriage he travelled 368 000 km, equivalent to making more than nine rounds of the earth, in his lifetime. It testifies to the painstaking efforts he made for the country's prosperity and people's well-being and the cause of global independence.

Carriage used by President Kim Il Sung



Office in the carriage used by President Kim Il Sung





Car used by President Kim Il Sung in the last period of his life







Chairman Kim Jong Il sees vinalon cotton (February 9, 2010)



Preserved in this room are orders, medals and honorary title certificates, 422 in total, which the great Generalissimo Kim Jong Il received from 59 countries and nine regional and international organizations as well as the DPRK.

The DPRK service personnel and people conferred the title of Generalissimo of the DPRK, the title of Hero of the DPRK four times, the Order of Kim Il Sung four times, Kim Il Sung Prize two times, 22 orders and 9 medals on Chairman Kim Jong Il, in high appreciation of his immortal exploits in defending the dignity and interests of the country and nation and developing the DPRK into an invincible socialist country under the banner of Songun.

Many countries and international organizations conferred 39 orders, 141 medals and 201 honorary titles on him in high praise of his distinguished services to world peace and security.

Though he passed away, the world progressive peoples are awarding him orders, medals and honorary titles out of their boundless reverence.

Room where orders, medals and honorary title certificates conferred on Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved



Uniform of Generalissimo of the DPRK





Part of orders, medals and honorary title certificates awarded to Chairman Kim Jong Il





Car and battery car used by Chairman Kim Jong Il in the last period of his life





This boat was launched on June 15, Juche 67 (1978). For the subsequent 30-odd years Chairman Kim Jong Il, by using this boat, inspected units of the Korean People's Army and different national economic sectors on 517 occasions and conducted external activities on nine occasions, travelling 34 488 km (1 036 hours onboard) in his lifetime, propelling the Songun revolution along the road of victory with the helm of the revolution in his hands, against the tribulations of history.

The Korean people will never forget the patriotic devotion with which he travelled across the rough sea with a do-or-die spirit to inspect island-defending army units even in biting cold.

Boat used by Chairman Kim Jong Il

December 1945 - December 2011

Total distance: 432 000 km (1 080 000 ri)

Field guidance in the DPRK

Frequency of travel by train: 1 567 times

Travel distance by train: 334 000 km

Foreign tour

Foreign tour: 18 times

Foreign travel distance: 98 000 km

Travel distance by train: 64 000 km

Travel distance by air: 34 000 km







Before this carriage the Korean people feel their hearts rending and hot tears rolling down as Chairman Kim Jong Il passed away in it on his way for field guidance for his beloved people. Regarding it as his home and office, he travelled in this carriage, rain or shine, on the forced march of the Songun revolution.

On display in this carriage are a parka he wore shouldering the destiny of his country and people and their bright future, a pair of sunglasses he always put on because of his accumulated fatigue, his threadbare gloves and the documents he went over and signed on the last day of his life.

Carriage used by Chairman Kim Jong Il





Hall of Lamentation

The Hall of Lamentation tells of the grief and great loss the Korean and world progressive peoples felt for the sudden death of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

As they had been fascinated by the great leaders' outstanding ideology and ennobling personality, they cried in bitter tears, calling them loudly. It seems that their wails of grief are still heard in this hall.





Bronze relief sculptures in the Hall of Lamentation



Room where visitors record their impressions





Travelator in the access corridor

The access corridor has been so designed that the Korean people yearning for their great leaders can visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun all the year round, irrespective of climatic conditions.

The travelator there will run for ever carrying the Korean and foreign visitors who, with boundless yearning for the benevolent leaders, are streaming to the palace to see them who would be waiting for their dear people.





Plaza park





Pergola



Group sculptures in the plaza park



Flowerbed at the centre of the plaza park



Part of the flowerbed

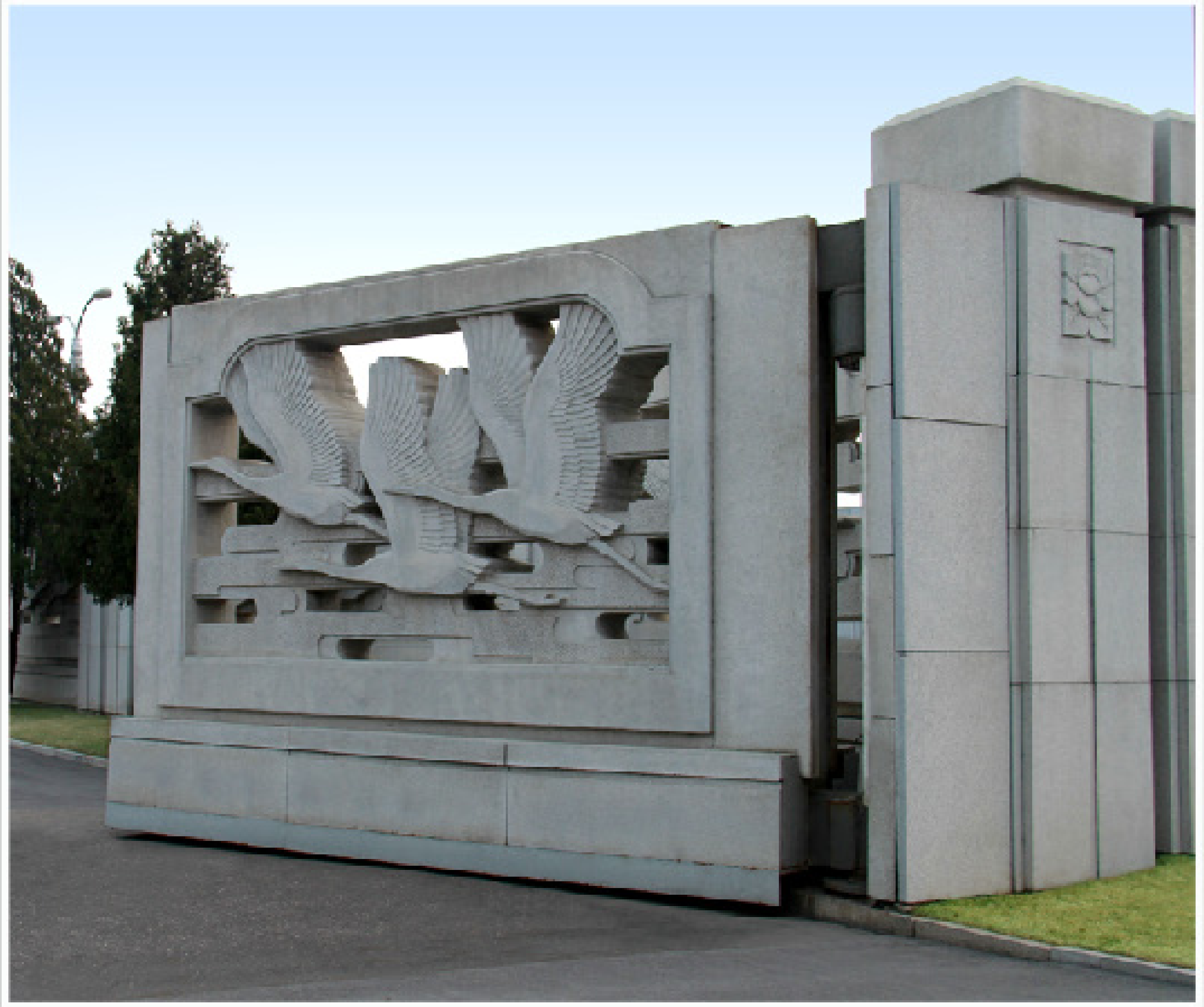


Moat



Granite gates





Large granite fence







Tram for visitors to the palace


Arboretum area



Partial view of the arboretum



Partial view of the Paekhwa Garden



Partial view of the vineyard

President Kim Il Sung had this vineyard laid out to provide his people, children in particular, with sweet grapes. He himself bred a new species of vines that suit the Korean climate and soil and named them Korean vines.

He calculated the per-hectare yield of grapes and had them supplied to the nurseries and kindergartens in Pyongyang. He also gave instructions on how to process grapes.

The savoury odour of the ripe fruits fills the air, carrying the warm affection of the benevolent leaders to all the children in the city.













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